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14. A laryngeal mask construction, including:

(A) a generally elliptical inflatable ring defining a distal end, the ring being adapted for sealed engagement to a laryngeal inlet of a patient;

(B) a backing plate defining an air inlet, the backing plate being sealed to the ring, the backing plate establishing a laryngeal-chamber side and a pharyngeal-chamber side of the construction;

(C) an inflatable back cushion disposed on the pharyngeal-chamber side, the back cushion when inflated contacting a pharyngeal wall of the patient and biasing the ring away from the pharyngeal wall;

(D) a tubular conduit defining a distal end, the distal end of the tubular conduit being disposed near the distal end of the ring for communication with an esophageal inlet of the patient, a first portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the back cushion, a second portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the backing plate; and

(E) one or more stiffening ribs, the ribs being disposed on a third portion of the tubular conduit, the third portion of the tubular conduit being disposed between the first and second portions of the tubular conduit.

15. The laryngeal mask construction according to claim 14, further including an airway tube, a distal end of the airway tube being sealed to the air inlet.

16. The laryngeal mask construction according to claim 14, further including a gastric discharge tube, a distal end of the gastric discharge tube being sealed to a proximal end of the tubular conduit.

17. The laryngeal mask construction according to claim 14, wherein the ribs and the tubular conduit are of a monolithic construction.

18. The laryngeal mask construction according to claim 14, wherein the tubular conduit and the ring are of a monolithic construction.

19. The laryngeal mask construction according to claim 14, wherein the backing plate is domed.

20. The laryngeal mask construction according to claim 14, wherein the backing plate defines a groove.

21. The laryngeal mask construction according to claim 14, wherein the ring is of relatively thin and softly pliant elastomeric material.

22. The laryngeal mask construction according to claim 14, wherein the ring is a molded product.

23. A laryngeal mask construction, including:

(A) a generally elliptical inflatable ring defining a distal end, the ring being adapted for sealed engagement to a laryngeal inlet of a patient;

(B) a backing plate defining an air inlet, the backing plate being sealed to the ring, the backing plate establishing a laryngeal-chamber side and a pharyngeal-chamber side of the construction;

(C) an inflatable back cushion disposed on the pharyngeal-chamber side, the back cushion when inflated contacting a pharyngeal wall of the patient and biasing the ring away from the pharyngeal wall;

(D) a tubular conduit defining a distal end, the distal end of the tubular conduit being disposed near the distal end of the ring for communication with an esophageal inlet of the patient, a first portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the back cushion; and

(E) one or more stiffening ribs, the ribs being disposed on a second portion of the tubular conduit.

24. A laryngeal mask construction, including:

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(A) a generally elliptical inflatable ring defining a distal end, the ring being adapted for sealed engagement to a laryngeal inlet of a patient;

(B) a backing plate defining an air inlet, the backing plate being sealed to the ring, the backing plate establishing a laryngeal-chamber side and a pharyngeal-chamber side of the construction;

(C) an inflatable back cushion disposed on the pharyngeal-chamber side, the back cushion when inflated contacting a pharyngeal wall of the patient and biasing the ring away from the pharyngeal wall;

(D) a tubular conduit defining a distal end, the distal end of the tubular conduit being disposed near the distal end of the ring for communication with an esophageal inlet of the patient, a first portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the backing plate; and

(E) one or more stiffening ribs, the ribs being disposed on a second portion of the tubular conduit.

25. A laryngeal mask construction, including:

(A) a generally elliptical inflatable ring defining a distal end, the ring being adapted for sealed engagement to a laryngeal inlet of a patient;

(B) a backing plate defining an air inlet, the backing plate being sealed to the ring, the backing plate establishing a laryngeal-chamber side and a pharyngeal-chamber side of the construction;

(C) an inflatable back cushion disposed on the pharyngeal-chamber side, the back cushion when inflated contacting a pharyngeal wall of the patient and biasing the ring away from the pharyngeal wall; and

(D) a tubular conduit defining a distal end, the distal end of the tubular conduit being disposed near the distal end of the ring for communication with an esophageal inlet of the patient, a first portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the back cushion, a second portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the backing plate.

26. A laryngeal mask construction, including:

(A) an airway tube;

(B) a gastric discharge tube;

(C) a generally elliptical inflatable ring defining a distal end, the ring being adapted for sealed engagement to a laryngeal inlet of a patient;

(D) a backing plate defining an air inlet, the air inlet being sealed to the airway tube, the backing plate being sealed to the ring, the backing plate establishing a laryngeal-chamber side and a pharyngeal-chamber side of the construction;

(E) an inflatable back cushion disposed on the pharyngeal-chamber side, the back cushion when inflated contacting a pharyngeal wall of the patient and biasing the ring away from the pharyngeal wall;

(F) a tubular conduit defining a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end of the tubular conduit being sealed to the gastric-discharge tube, the distal end of the tubular conduit being disposed near the distal end of the ring for communication with an esophageal inlet of the patient, a first portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the back cushion, a second portion of the conduit being adhered to a portion of the backing plate; and

(G) one or more stiffening ribs, the ribs being disposed on a third portion of the tubular conduit, the third portion of the tubular conduit being disposed between the first and second portions of the tubular conduit.

B.1 Cont'd

27. A laryngeal mask construction for airway service to a patient's laryngeal inlet and for removal of gastric-discharge products from the patient's esophagus, the construction including:

(A) a mask portion adapted for positioning inside of a patient near the patient's larynx;

(B) an airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the distal end of the airway tube being coupled to the mask portion, the airway tube defining a central axis, the central axis of the airway tube being disposed on one side of a sagittal plane when the mask portion is disposed inside the patient near the patient's larynx, the sagittal plane substantially bisecting the patient into a left half and a right half; and

(C) a gastric discharge tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the distal end of the discharge tube being coupled to the mask portion, the discharge tube defining a central axis, the central axis of the discharge tube being disposed on the other side of the sagittal plane when the mask portion is disposed inside the patient near the patient's larynx.

28. The laryngeal mask construction according to claim 27, wherein an outer diameter of the airway tube is substantially equal to an outer diameter of the discharge tube.

29. The laryngeal mask construction according to claim 27, wherein an outer diameter of the airway tube is not equal to an outer diameter of the discharge tube.

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated October 16, 2001. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-29 are currently pending in this application, and of these claims 1, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 are independent.

The Office Action states that the reissue declaration is defective. A new reissue declaration is submitted herewith. Applicant's attorney and the Examiner discussed the statement of the error upon which the reissue application is based during a telephonic interview on January 8, 2002. Although the Examiner stated that he would need to review the statement in the new declaration after it is filed, the Examiner indicated that the new statement of the error upon which the reissue application is based appeared to satisfy the statutory requirements.